

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 00875 020309Z

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /123 W

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R 011230Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 754

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USUN NEW YORK 332

USLO PEKING

UNCLAS COLOMBO 875

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECAFE: OCON

SUBJ: ECAFE: PRC'S MAJOR PLENARY SESSION SPEECH

REF: COLOMBO 856

1. IN ADDITION TO COMMENTS (REFTEL) ABOUT ECAFE REPRESENTATION, HEAD OF PRC DEL (HUANG MING-TA, PRC AMB TO SRI LANKA) MADE GENERAL PRESENTATION IN HIS MAJOR SPEECH ON AGENDA ITEM FOUR (REVIEW OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SITUATION).

2. BASIC THEME WAS FAMILIAR ONE THAT ECAFE REGIONS EFFORTS TOWARD DEVELOPMENT BEING SERIOUSLY IMPEDED BY IMPERIALISM AND "SUPERPOWER AGGRESSION". ON LATTER POINT, CHIEF DELEGATE ACCUSED SUPERPOWERS WITH "STEPPING UP THEIR CONTENTION FOR HEGEMONY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, TURNING A PEACEFUL OCEAN INTO AN ARENA OF THEIR FIERCE RIVALRY".

3. IN PLACING BLAME FOR REGIONS PROBLEMS ON IMPERIALISM, SPEAKERS SAID "SOME ALLEGE THAT THE TROUBLE LIES WITH OVER-POPULATION". HE CONTINED "THIS IS ENTIRELY WRONG. MORE PEOPLE MEAN MORE ENTHUSIASM AND MORE ENERGY, SO A LARGER POPULATION IS IN FACT A MAJOR CONDITION FAVORABLE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF

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PAGE 02 COLOMB 00875 020309Z

ASIAN COUNTRIES. MOREOVER, POPULATION DENSITY IN MOST ASIAN

COUNTRIES IS LOWER THAN THAT OF SOME DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. HOW
CAN IT BE ALLEGED THAT A LARGE POPULATION SPELLS DISASTER?"
THIS STATEMENT WAS REVERSAL OF PRC POSITION IN 1973 ECAFE
PLENARY.

4. IN CONTRAST TO SPEECH'S LONG LIST OF WOES "RESULTING FROM
IMPERIALISM", IT STATED "RELIABLE WAY" TO DEVELOPMENT WAS
THROUGH INDEPENDENCE, SELF-RELIANCE AND COOPERATION. PRC WAS OFFER-
ED AS EXAMPLE OF WHAT PROGRESS COULD, AS A RESULT, TAKE
PLACE.
VAN HOLLEN

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